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A RECENT CONVERT.

OEVIDENTLY a recent convert to populist ideas is the Louisville Commercial, the leading Republican morning paper of the South. It has recently favorably commented on the initiative and referendum, while in a recent issue of it has this to say of a State or governmental insurance system, which is thoroughly populist in principle:

"The federal government furnishes our river improvements, our mail carrying facilities, our currency, and performs every other important function; so why should it not take a hand in the fire insurance business? The government should manage this business in such a way as to make rates about half way what they now are, and the protection would be absolute. Incendiarism and arson would be reduced to the minimum, and the Insurance Trust would 'fade away.' The benefits are apparent at a glance.

"There would be the objection that is urged against everything the government does, that it is paternalism, but the furnishing of fire insurance at a minimum would surely be as proper as the improvement of water ways, the building of roads, the supply of money orders or the establishment of postal savings banks. And governmental insurance would confer a benefit upon every citizen of the Republic except paupers and tramps, for all others are directly in both real and personal property that require the protection of fire insurance. The government could furnish insurance very cheaply. It could get along without a reserve fund, and it could dispense with the salaries of agents."

This is quite as logical argument in behalf of government insurance as an orthodox populist could produce.

Government insurance is certainly as simple and as necessary an experiment in governmental ownership as the nation could make. A system of government fire and life insurance, coupled with an old age pension, would do much to relieve the people of burdens and free them from distress.

The same issue of the Commercial also brings another important point to immediate notice. "What if Morgan Should Die?" asks the editor, who proceeds to show how completely, under present conditions, financial affairs are interwoven with the personality of J. Pierpont Morgan. And reviewing the matter carefully the Commercial asks:

"If Morgan should die what would become of us? is a serious question; but if Morgan should live, what is to become of us? is a more serious question. The constitutional guaranty to every man of the right to pursue happiness in his own way is not worth much when Mr. Morgan has control of every field in which happiness is supposed to be, and when can hardly breathe without getting permission from Mr. Morgan."

It is indeed time for us to stop and ask, "Whither are we drifting as a nation?" when one man encompasses the financial and industrial life of the nation so completely as does Morgan, the uncrowned king of America.

THE SAVING OF FORMER WASTE

THE advance of practical science, modern inventions and ingenuity, have brought about the production of immense value from substances that were once cast aside as utterly useless and troublesome encumbrances.

Out of what was once considered pure waste now becomes a production of many articles of commerce of enormous value.

The cotton seed of the South, once regarded as worse than worthless except for planting, gives one of the most striking illustrations of this improved economy.

Already cotton seed products are equal in value of nearly 25 per cent of the crop and are a source of constantly increasing revenue.

The great meat packing establishments give other expressive proofs of this great economic advance.

In Chicago the sum of \$67,137,000 is invested in this business and its average annual product is \$256,527,000. It would not be worth that amount by more than \$30,000,000 but for the by-products that come from the hair, blood, bones and various other parts of the animals that were once burned or thrown away.

The bones of slaughtered cattle are now used in the manufacture of tooth-brush handles, chess men, and for whatever purpose ivory was used years ago. These bones are hard, and take a very high polish.

The knuckles from the bones are cut off and used in the manufacture of glue and for fertilizer. The tips of horns are sawed off, split and pressed into flat plates used in the manufacture of combs, backs of brushes, large buttons, etc. The tips of the horn is also made into mouth pieces for pipes.

Hoofs, which some years ago were thrown away, are now sorted into three grades. White hoofs are sent to Japan, and there used in the manufacture of various ornaments; striped hoofs are worked up into buttons and horn ornaments; black hoofs are used in the manufacture of cyanide of potassium for gold extraction, and also ground up to make a fertilizer for the use of florists, grape growers and others.

Glycerine which was once waste and was left to

flow into drains or rivers, is now worth as much as \$2,000 a week to some establishments. Marrow, neat's foot oil, glue and soap are very valuable products of the packing house. Though we have mentioned a large number a complete list of these by-products would include many more articles.

The science of putting to use absolutely everything in hogs, beaves and other animals that go to the slaughter houses seems to have been carried to perfection and represents one of the most notable recent triumphs of human economy and ingenuity.

SOUTHERN PROSPERITY.

OWITH a just recognition of the truth that prosperity in one section of the Union should be a cause of satisfaction to all, the Boston Globe comments in a congratulatory spirit on the great industrial advancement of the South now becoming so apparent to the world.

"The South," remarks the Globe is keeping pace with the general progress of the country, all things considered. In fact, the bank clearings for the first six months of the present year show that in one respect she has done better than the Middle and New England States combined. The Southern States gained 13.7 per cent in bank clearings, while the Middle States report a decrease of 15.7 and New England fell off 5.1 per cent."

This is, indeed, a significant showing, and is necessarily accompanied by a record of commercial and industrial development that explains the notable gain in bank clearings. The type of Southern Business man and manufacturer now in evidence is the purely modern type, envolved by conditions which demand the highest order of practical ability. Alert, enterprising, bold on proper occasion, thoroughly posted in the details of his calling, he is upbuilding the South on the firmest foundations. The younger men of this section are admirably trained and equipped for success.

Within the next ten years the truth that the South has taken a foremost place as a commercial and manufacturing section will be more than ever convincing. The Southern States have vast natural resources yet to be developed. The men now at the front possess the character and the skilled forcefulness necessary is such development. The attention of outside capital is directed to the South as never before. It is a safe prediction that no section of the Union will make greater strides in development along the best lines than will the South in, say, the first quarter of the new century.

ATTEMPT TO DODGE A RECKONING.

OWITH much straining and a most tremendous effort the various Republican organs in touch with the administration are endeavoring to convince the public that President Roosevelt is preparing to deliver a doughty blow right in the solar plexus region of the trusts.

To those persons who concede that the President is full of good intentions, but who are skeptical as to his ability to compel honest and effective Republican action against the trusts, these administration organs reply in effect that we have no idea how strong Mr. Roosevelt really is when he makes up his mind to exert his strength. This he has done now, they announced, and the display of masterfulness will come on schedule time and result in the triumphant knocking-out of the monopoly combinations.

Thoughtful students of the situation will not fail to note that this promise of the demolition of the trusts, if accepted at its face value by the people, will carry the Republican party nicely through the Congressional campaigns now under way. It will prevent that reckoning with the people which is otherwise certain to be demanded. Every time an indignant protest is lifted against the shameful Republican record of subservience to the trusts in the last session of Congress the response will be—"Wait! Hasn't the President said that he is getting ready to knock the trusts into a cocked hat? He'll do it, too. You just wait!"

All of which will be very fine, from the trust and administration view point, if the people can just be fooled into this postponement of action on the Republican record. Although President Roosevelt may have spoken in utter good faith in promising an honest and effective warfare on the trusts, about all he has accomplished is to play into the hands of the trust agents in the Republican party. They will take all possible advantage of Mr. Roosevelt's words as serving to advert popular wrath against their party in the Congressional elections. But do you think for a minute that they will permit the President to injure the trusts? Never; they are sufficiently powerful to defeat him here just as they defeated him in the Cuban reciprocity issue, and they will see to it that his promises of trust-destruction are as empty as air.

It is estimated that the gold in the United States treasury would pay the entire expense of the government for one year and still leave \$50,000,000 on hand.

Captain Bradlee Strong has gone to London, presumably to grow up with the country. He was a shade too fast for New York, so there is no telling what he will do to the customs of London.

The members of the National Educational association who regret so much the fact that the bible is less read than it should be will rejoice to hear that the editor of a weekly paper in Christian county Illinois intends to bring the bible home to his subscribers by publishing it in installments. His paper is not a large one, and the weekly installments will be short, so that it will take fifty years to get from Genesis to Revelation. Happily, if a reader is afraid he will die before the fifty years are up he can buy a copy of the bible for a trifle and read it at once. It will be all the better for him if he does. It is surprising that the author of this latest plan to familiarize the people with the bible should be a resident of a rural county. It is generally taken for granted that the bible is more read and studied by country people than by city people. The country people are supposed to be religious and the city people to be irreligious. In the one the percentage of church attendance is high except in the harvesting time. In the other it is low at all times. One may go into city homes and not see a copy of the bible. In country homes one is almost always in plain sight. It may be that the people of Christian county, Illinois have bibles, but do not read them. Not long before the civil war began "Josh" Allen made a speech down in "Egypt" in which he said it was plain that the "Egyptians" at least were making no preparations for war. "I go into your peaceful homes," said he, "and I see the dust lying as thick upon the old rifle resting above the fireplace as it does upon the family bible." It may be that the dust is thick upon the Christian county bibles, and the enterprising editor of the Assumption Independent thinks he can remedy the sad state of affairs by inoculating his readers with a taste of bible reading. It is the excellent custom of the countryman to read his paper thoroughly. He begins at the upper left hand corner of the first page and goes to the lower right hand corner of the last page without skipping anything. If he meets a few chapters of the bible in his onward march he will read them. The editor's plan is an ingenious one.

The potato is assuming a power in Germany hardly to be realized by the friends of that humble vegetable in other days. The farmers are raising it for the alcohol that it contains, and the alcohol that it contains is being used extensively not as a stimulant or intoxicant, but in the mechanical art. Experiments with potato alcohol have been carried on in Germany since 1887, at which time a law was passed putting a high tax upon it when used as a beverage and practically exempting it from all taxation when denaturalized and prepared for industrial use. In 1901 some 30,642,700 gallons of it were distilled and consumed in the arts. Among the chief uses to which potato alcohol is put abroad is that of creating power for machinery of all kinds. Alcohol power has been applied to motor wagons for the army, to wagons in general, to motor plows, and to all manner of stationary machines. It is used in cooking, heating, illuminating. For motor purposes this alcohol is supposed to be twice as efficient as petroleum and its by-products. Sometimes about 25 per cent of benzol is mixed with it, which further increases its power. Its use is not dangerous, and the positive assertion is made that when used in automobiles it gives off no odor. The potato plant has always been popular in Germany, but not until the scientists began to look into its industrial uses was anything remarkable expected of it. It is now regarded, however, as one of the most useful and profitable products of the farm, and has been elevated, therefore, far above its former classification as mere garden truck.

Mr. William Norman Guthrie has been telling the students at the University of Chicago that we take life too seriously, that we are saddest when we drink, and that there would be less drinking if there were more laughing. Yet it is not because men have liked laughter less than they have seemed to like liquor more, and it is with a view to inviting hilarity that they have, as the phrase goes, "taken to drink." Yet there is no doubt that American people are too grave, though it is of no use to tell them so, for if anything is calculated to make a man melancholy it is to be requested to cheer up and be lively. And, on the other hand, the funny books are the most popular books of the day and the comic plays the best attended. There never was a time when the melancholy Dane was so put out of countenance by his merry-making rival, the vaudeville hero, and perhaps one might find a reason for the recent Dickens revival in the liking for the fun of that author, which seems to exist in even the most unlitary breasts. To be sure, in watching an American audience one could not always be sure whether it was "Hamlet" or a vaudeville performance that held the boards, and the greatest enjoyer of Dickens' humor is often careful not to let his face betray his joy. And perhaps Americans are too eager in their desire to be amused and hunt the comic god too sedulously. There is nothing that gives more gravity to the countenance than the ardent pursuits of some object, even when that object is the unstrained quality of gaiety.

Four of the Republican representative of Michigan who opposed the Cuban reciprocity bill because of their devotion to the best sugar interests have failed to receive renomination.

King Edward, it is said, will never be a well man again. How could one expect him to be with three doctors looking after his health?

If there are any more efforts on the part of the Democratic leaders to promote harmony, there will be a fight worth going to see.

During the last three fiscal years the balance of trade in favor of the United States has been \$1,759,000,000, and last year was a bad crop year, too.

It is said that the Philippines can supply all the hemp required in the world. But there wouldn't be enough for export if all of the natives had justice done them.

Mr. Bryan says in a choice between Tom Johnson and John R. McLean he will take Johnson every time. Perhaps Mr. Bryan is influenced by professional jealousy without realizing it. McLean is in the newspaper business.

Greenville is becoming a city of sensations. A double hanging and the culmination of a feud in one week is enough to advertise the town as a health resort—provided there are no more fends to culminate.

While the British are endeavoring to devise ways and means of saving their ocean carrying trade which is rapidly passing to the Americans, some persons in this country continue to urge the granting of subsidies to American ships.

Bishop Ireland recently made an address in which he said many wise things about the newspaper and its mission, but none of his utterances were wiser than his remarks relative to the treatment Catholics may expect to receive from the United States government. He advises his fellow churchmen to trust the government.

Every honest man believes he is right and that is why he doesn't agree with the other fellow who holds different views. They sometimes decide to act together but that doesn't make both of them right or both wrong in their opinions. The only true conversion comes from a change of heart. This is true in politics as well as in religion.

Statistics of mill construction during the last three years show that during this period 950 textile mills, mainly cotton mills, have been built in the south, and 419 in all other sections of the United States combined. The increase in the number of mills during the half of this year over the previous six months has been almost entirely in the south. There has been also a marked increase in the number of mills classed as miscellaneous. Of textile mills of all kinds begun in the country during the last six months of this year 165 are in the south and 92 in the north. These new mills are thus distributed: North Carolina comes first with 37; South Carolina, second, with 28; Georgia, third, with 22; Pennsylvania, fourth, with 19; Massachusetts reports 18; Texas, 16; Tennessee and Alabama, 14 each; New York, 13; Mississippi, 11; New Jersey, 9; Virginia, 8; Maine, 7; Connecticut 5; Kentucky and Ohio, 4 each; Arkansas, Rhode Island and Oklahoma, 3 each; Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Missouri, West Virginia and Canada, 2 each; California, Colorado, Illinois, Kansas, New Hampshire, Wisconsin and Wyoming, 1 each. The Providence Journal, even from its New England point of view, can see the logic of the situation and states it frankly as follows: "The steady advance in cotton spinning which is going on at the south is likely to continue rather than be checked. It has advantages over the north in this industry in its abundant water power, nearness to the raw material and freedom at present from many of the labor troubles which are effecting production here. Living also is cheaper there and smaller pay goes farther with the help."

It is a little bit singular that great universities should allow professors of this and that and the other thing to go abroad lecturing on topics which concern the very vitals of the nation without thorough-understanding of their subject. The trouble with a professor who lives within the walls of a collegiate institution is that he absorbs theory and is out of touch with the practicalities of life. We have had various instances within the last few years of the teachers of theory misunderstanding practice. The latest professor to "jar" the nation is Albert Bushnell Hart, of Harvard, who lectured at the University of Chicago the other night. The only point in the professor's address in which we are concerned is the statement that the Monroe doctrine is practically a dead letter; that "it is useless to attempt to police all the American continent," and that "we will only get involved in costly wars if we stick to it." That sort of talk is absurd. It might be pardoned in ignorant persons, but not in a college professor who claims to know history. The Monroe doctrine was never more alive than it is to day, and never has it been more widely recognized. It will stand for all time. Nor is it at all necessary to police the entire American continent. It is but essential to hold to the doctrine, and no nation will ever question our right to support it. That is one reason why we maintain a navy, why we have just launched such a magnificent fighter as the battleship Maine. We are giving notice to the world that we are prepared to protect the interests of the United States the world over, and the more ships we have the better is maintained our proud position on land and sea. A great navy is the price of peace and so long as we have one no country is going to interfere with us, least of all to question the validity of the Monroe doctrine.